

SOUTH DAKOTA MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER REPORT



SOUTH DAKOTA
FIELD OFFICE
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STATISTICS SERVICE
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Cooperating with
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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For Month of December 2005
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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite the prevalence of above-normal temperatures during the month of December, several areas of the state were battered by severe winter storms. The ice storm of November 27 was followed by several snowfalls and December. The power losses that were common in several parts of the state caused much difficulty in caring for livestock. Livestock have also been stressed during the month from the weather variability, ranging from mild temperatures to frigid cold. Major farm activities included marketing grain, tending to livestock, and repairing machinery.

This report is based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

WEATHER INFORMATION: Temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal in December, with average temperatures in the upper teens and lower 20's. The low for the month was -23 degrees, reported in Porcupine. The high for December was 63 degrees, reported in Spearfish and Porcupine. Precipitation varied and the month, with totals ranging from 0.06 inch in Hot Springs to 1.77 inches in Clear Lake. As of January 1st the average snow depth for the state was 4.1 inches.

SOIL CONDITION: Soil temperatures from reporting stations averaged 32.2 degrees for the past week. Statewide soil temperatures averaged 2.1 degrees warmer than normal. The soil temperature in Cottonwood was 5.7 degrees above normal, while the Redfield soil temperature was 0.3 degree below normal.

FIELD CROPS REPORT: Producers in several areas are concerned with the effects that a minimal snow cover and previous ice storms may have on their winter wheat and alfalfa crops. Winter wheat is rated at 3 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 5 percent excellent, with snow cover rated at 49 percent poor, 42 percent adequate, and 9 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is similar, with 42 percent rated poor, 48 percent adequate, and 10 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT: December's mixture of weather, ranging from mild to frigid cold, has been hard on livestock and the state, with many producers reporting problems with sick calves. Deaths of fall calf and lamb crops have been mostly at or below average. Overall, cattle are rated at 83 percent in good to excellent condition, with sheep rated at 89 percent in good to excellent condition. Feed supplies, at 92 percent adequate to surplus, were in better supply and the state than stock water supplies, which were rated at 71 percent adequate to surplus for December. Several producers were without electricity for a significant period of time during the month, making the watering of livestock a challenge.

SOIL TEMPERATURES WEEK ENDING JAN. 1, 2006
(4-inch Depth)

LOCATION	TEMP	LOCATION	TEMP
Beresford	31	Gettysburg	32
Brookings	33	Nisland	34
Caputa	32	Pierre	32
Chamberlain	33	Redfield	31
Cottonwood	35	Watertown	31

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2006

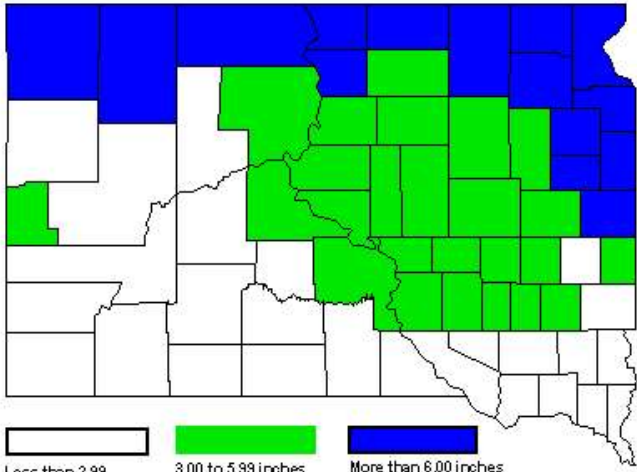
ITEM	V	POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
				Percent		
Winter Wheat	3	17	43	32	5	
Cattle	0	3	14	66	17	
Sheep	0	1	10	67	22	

FEED AND WATER SUPPLIES COMPARISON
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2006

RATING	FEED SUPPLIES			STOCK WATER SUPPLIES		
	This	Last	5-Yr.	This	Last	5-Yr.
	Year	Year	Ave.	Year	Year	Ave.
			Percent			
Very Short	1	9	NA	15	17	NA
Short	7	20	NA	14	20	NA
Adeq.	85	67	NA	68	62	NA
Surplus	7	4	NA	3	1	NA

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released February 6, 2006.

As of Sunday, January 1, 2006



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

For Month Ending December 31, 2005

Dist.	Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation					
		Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Total				Departure from Normal	
						Current Month	Departure from Normal	Since Jan. 1	Since April 1	Since Jan. 1	Since Apr. 1
----- Degrees -----						----- Inches -----					
NW	Bison	21	2	51	-12	0.36	-0.11	19.41	18.64	2.46	3.65
	Buffalo	23	3	54	-13	0.22	-0.17	9.42	9.19	-4.55	-3.60
	Dupree	21	3	51	-10	0.64	0.29	17.29	16.17	0.79	1.36
	McIntosh	20	4	51	-15	0.60	0.16	15.52	14.74	-0.96	-0.27
	Newell	21	1	54	-20	0.34	-0.01	16.79	15.88	1.73	2.32
	Timber Lake	20	3	53	-15	0.96	0.46	15.02	13.41	-2.67	-2.32
NC	Aberdeen	19	4	45	-21	1.11	0.70	20.65	19.42	2.10	3.05
	Eureka	20	6	46	-19	0.72	0.40	17.19	16.35	0.25	0.99
	Faulkton	19	4	46	-15	1.06	0.70	22.73	21.43	4.20	5.00
	Mobridge	21	5	52	-20	1.08	0.61	15.76	14.63	-1.18	-0.41
	Roscoe	18	3	45	-19	1.02	0.65	20.84	19.80	2.19	3.07
NE	Britton	18	4	41	-17	1.16	0.77	31.38	30.30	12.57	13.20
	Clear Lake	17	1	40	-11	1.77	1.21	30.04	27.84	5.81	6.52
	Sisseton	21	5	44	-9	0.86	0.31	26.43	25.00	5.35	6.35
	Webster	17	3	40	-12	0.14	-0.40	26.12	25.23	5.06	6.46
	Watertown	17	2	39	-14	1.26	0.76	20.88	19.82	-1.35	0.12
WC	Faith	23	3	51	-12	0.57	0.21	15.24	13.99	-1.32	-0.76
	Milesville	22	2	53	-18	0.58	0.09	19.04	17.41	0.97	1.26
	Long Valley	24	-2	56	-19	0.18	-0.15	18.98	17.15	1.23	1.27
	Philip	24	2	58	-21	0.53	0.17	14.33	13.30	-1.69	-1.08
	Rapid City	26	3	60	-12	0.25	-0.22	14.82	12.51	-1.82	-2.19
	Spearfish	28	2	63	-11	0.84	0.03	19.65	17.76	-2.55	-1.65
C	Chamberlain	19	-3	50	-13	0.88	0.49	25.05	22.80	7.62	7.14
	Highmore	20	2	45	-13	0.41	-0.01	17.39	16.37	-2.28	-1.23
	Huron	19	2	41	-15	0.79	0.32	24.62	23.82	4.54	6.49
	Onida	20	2	49	-13	0.50	-0.04	15.83	15.03	-2.59	-1.06
	Pierre	22	2	52	-15	0.26	-0.29	12.82	12.30	-5.85	-4.33
EC	Brookings	16	1	42	-20	1.45	1.12	33.02	31.37	10.13	10.46
	Madison	16	1	44	-18	0.78	0.00	28.84	27.02	4.72	6.01
	Mitchell	18	-2	43	-13	0.93	0.33	31.05	28.93	9.00	9.51
	Sioux Falls	19	1	45	-13	1.31	0.61	30.88	28.01	7.02	6.94
SW	Custer	25	0	55	-18	0.22	-0.34	15.82	14.51	-3.21	-2.64
	Hot Springs	27	0	59	-15	0.06	-0.30	19.06	17.55	3.23	3.21
	Oelrichs	25	0	60	-18	0.11	-0.36	19.33	18.22	2.46	3.27
	Porcupine	23	1	63	-23	0.14	-0.23	20.06	18.19	4.17	3.78
SC	Murdo	23	3	54	-11	0.86	0.31	19.28	17.21	1.15	1.34
	Winner	24	-1	52	-15	0.43	-0.18	24.32	21.89	0.77	1.17
SE	Armour	21	-2	43	-9	0.44	-0.28	28.26	26.14	5.20	5.96
	Centerville	19	1	46	-20	1.09	0.43	28.27	25.71	3.27	3.49
	Marion	18	0	44	-14	1.00	0.26	33.26	30.97	8.73	9.43
	Pickstown	21	-3	48	-11	0.71	0.07	27.19	24.80	4.94	5.04
	Vermillion	22	-1	53	-15	0.92	0.25	31.94	29.26	7.22	7.17
	Yankton	20	-2	55	-12	1.23	0.69	30.52	27.52	7.06	6.57

SOURCE: National Weather Service, provided by AWIS, Inc.